

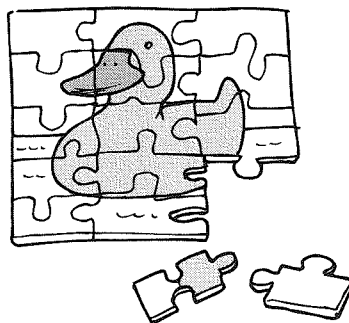
Playing with Puzzles

Today let's have fun playing with puzzles!

What do we need? Puzzles appropriate to your child's age.

What do we do? Put a puzzle together. Talk about the puzzle and what you are doing with the puzzle pieces.

What do we say? Use slow easy speech while:



Repeating

If the puzzle piece has a picture on it, name the picture and tell the child to repeat the name. (“[Flower]. You say that.”) If the puzzle piece doesn't have a picture on it, hold up one piece and say, “A piece. You say that.” Or, if your child is able to repeat a sentence fluently, talk about the pieces in simple sentences and have your child repeat the sentences. (“Here is a [cow].” or “This is a [puzzle piece].”)

Saying Simple Sentences

Talk about each piece as you complete the puzzle. You might ask, “What do we need?” Then take turns putting the puzzle together. As you do, say, “I'm putting a piece in the puzzle. Your turn.”

Describing

Talk to your child about the picture on the piece. Sometimes you'll know what it is and sometimes you won't. For example, you might say, “This piece has a hat and a jacket on it. Tell me about your piece.” Describe the puzzle piece itself and how it fits. Say, “This piece is little on top. It goes right here.” Talk about the color of the pieces.

Talking

Talk about the puzzle as it is being put together. Describe the picture. Talk about the pieces you still need to find. After the puzzle is complete, tell a short story about it. You could tell the story first and have your child repeat it or you could take turns telling a story.



Remember:

- ★ Use slow movements. Don't rush.
- ★ Keep your sentences short.
- ★ Do not be rigid about the sentences. Accept any easy speech.
- ★ If your child becomes too excited or disfluent, use easier responses (e.g., repeating or saying simple sentences instead of describing and talking).
- ★ Use slow easy speech when talking.
- ★ Pause often.